

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment, filed January 31, 2012, has been entered and carefully considered. Claim 1 is amended, Claim 21 is canceled, and Claims 1-20 are currently pending.
2. The outstanding rejection of Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement is withdrawn in light of Applicant's amendment to Claim 1.
3. The outstanding rejection of Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is withdrawn in light of Applicant's amendment to Claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. **Claims 1-20** are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record, alone or in combination, does not disclose or suggest "responsive to the packet being received after a time of failure along a communication link between two of the plurality of nodes and in response to a change of state of the one or two bits in the route indicator field to indicate an alternate route should be used as a result of a link failure, accessing an internal bypass table to retrieve a second route and transmitting the packet along the second route in the system to another node in the plurality of nodes, wherein the second route differs from the first route and is stored prior to the time of failure and wherein the change of state of the one or two bits is performed by one of the nodes that is responsible for detecting the link failure and for receiving and transmitting the packet" in Claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:
 - a. Saleh et al (United States Patent Application Publication US 20030179700 A1) is directed to storing network topology databases at each node in a network.
 - b. Huang (United States Patent Application Publication US 20030117950 A1) is directed to selecting a backup link bundle in response to receiving a link failure notification.
 - c. Shinomoya et al (United States Patent US 7188280 B2) is directed to a table containing alternate route information.
 - d. Cassiday et al (United States Patent US 7042837 B1) is directed to maintaining primary and secondary route tables.
 - e. Finn et al (United States Patent US 6728205 B1) is directed to storing primary and secondary paths in a route table.
 - f. Chaudhuri (United States Patent US 6324162 B1) is directed storing alternate paths in a link database.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANDREW CRISS whose telephone number is (571)272-1774. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hassan Kizou can be reached on 571-272-3088. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Andrew Chriss/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2472
2/1/2012